

Barley Fields and the Will of God (Ruth 2:21-23)

Proposition: Every child of God can glean insight in to the will of God for their lives by seeing the will of God portrayed in the life of Ruth.

I. The Will of God is a Presented Area of Labor (Vs. 21,23)

A. A Perceptible Area (Vs. 21)

B. A Plausible Area (Vs. 23)

II. The Will of God is a Pleasing Activity of Labor (Vs. 22)

A. A Fruitful Activity (Vs. 9, 15-16)

B. A Fellowshiping Activity (Vs. 21-22)

III. The Will of God is a Persevering Assignment of Labor (Vs. 23)

A. A Daily Assignment (Vs. 23a)

B. A Dis-chargeable Assignment (Vs. 23a)

Barley Fields and The Will of God (Ruth 2:1-23)

As a young preacher starting out I guess that I went through what every preacher goes through concerning the will of God for my life. What is his plan for me, what would He have me do. Really and truly this is a question that every one of us ought to grapple with, because God has a will a purpose for each and every one of our lives. Just like the little girl told her Sunday school teacher "God don't make no junk." The will of God for the life of a believer is of paramount importance. Understanding

and undertaking the will of God is our prime endeavor. George W. Mueller said: We would do well to keep in mind what other writers said: "Out of the will of God

So the question remains: What does the will of God have to do with Barley Fields In chapter #2, Ruth has found a new residence, new relationships, new resources, and beginning to grow into a new life + love.

But in this process she is met w/ the requirement of being obedient to the instructions of Boaz.

I. The Will of God is a Presented Area of Labor

Note vs 21, vs 8. We see here that Ruth is given plain and direct instruction concerning what she must do. So is

the will of God presented to us!

A. A Perceptible Area - He said unto me! There was no mistaking in the mind of Ruth what she was to do. Boaz said, "Stay in this field." Eph 5:17 Never forget! God has a will for your life. He wants you to know that will. Therefore he will show you his will. Many do not know God's perfect will for their lives because they have not seen to the prescribed will of God. If we will not God's scriptural will then we can forget about the specific will of God. Assemble to the, pray, read Bible.

B. A Plausible Area - Well that sounds right. Boaz spoke, she submitted. Boaz ordered and Ruth obeyed. The will of God is not a theological abstraction. It is plausible and doable for your life. You may think that you don't have much to offer to God for his use. That you are limited in some way. Like the story that I read about recently about a psychologist, an engineer, and a theologian that were on a hunting trip to Canada. The weather began to get bad.

II. The Will of God is a Pleasing Activity of Labor
vs 22. "It is good." What Boaz had asked Ruth to do was good, pleasing, advantageous. This was a delight not a drudgery!

- 1) George W. Truett said: "To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge; to find God's will is the greatest discovery; and to do God's will is the greatest achievement."
- 2) "Out of the will of God there is no such thing as success; in the will of God there cannot be failure."
- 3) ...of Boaz. Here is where we learn about the will of God: Every child of God can glean insight in to the will of God for their lives by seeing the will of God portrayed in the life of Ruth.
- 4) Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
- 5) ...to know what you don't know about the will of God, then start doing what you do know about the will of God!
- 6) ...get bad so they started looking for shelter. They came upon a small, isolated cabin. They knocked on the door, but no one was at home. The door was unlocked, so they walked on in. As they stepped inside, they saw something strange. There was a large, pot-bellied, cast iron stove suspended in midair by wires attached to the ceiling beams. They were all puzzled as to why the stove was elevated from the floor? The psychologist concluded: "It is obvious that this lonely trapper, isolated from humanity, has elevated his stove so that he can curl up under it and vicariously experience a return to his mothers womb." The engineer theorized: "This man is practicing laws of thermodynamics. By elevating his stove, he has discovered a way to distribute heat more evenly throughout his cabin." The theologian speculated: "I'm sure that hanging his stove from the ceiling has religious meaning. Fire lifted up has been a religious symbol for centuries." While they were debating the matter, the trapper returned. They immediately asked him why he had hung his pot-bellied stove by wires from the ceiling. He said, "Had plenty of wire, not much stovepipe." "You might be short in some areas. But God can use you!"

1) ...monkey meat. Well if God's will is for you to go to Africa and eat monkey meat, then God will make it so that monkey meat is the dish that you always wanted your Mama to make for you but you never could describe to her what it was that you wanted! You will never be more fulfilled in life than when you are in the prescribed and personal will of God! I think of what my pastor always said: The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.

2) ...will of God draws us in close and enjoyable nearness to Jesus. If you are in the will of God, you can't help but say, "This is good!"

The will of God for our lives is not a job but a joy.
A. A fruitful Activity - What Boaz had commanded her to do put her in contact w/ the bounty of God every day. Remember Vs 9. The will of Boaz for Ruth afforded her protection and provision every day Vs 15-16. Everything she needed was in the will of God! When I think on this I think of Sampson slaying Philistines w/ Jawbone. The refreshment he needed came out of what he needed. Some hesitate at the will of God, "God will send me to Africa and I'll have to eat monkey meat."

B. A Fellowship Activity - I want you to notice something here: Vs 21 the men; Vs 22 the maidens. She came in not knowing a soul but Naomi but now a whole variety of relationships are now available in this field of labor. Oh I think of the relationships and friends I have encountered laboring in this field. What fulfilling friendships. But she also daily saw the Master Boaz. She was near and with him every day. The greatest pleasure is laboring w/ Jesus. The will of God brings

III. The Will of God is a Persevering Assignment of Labor. Vs 21, Vs 23 We see something here concerning the duration of the will of God. She was to stay till the

end of harvest. To persevere in service.

A. A Daily Assignment - vs 21 kept fast. The indication is that she be in Boaz's field at every opportunity. She was to daily work in the field. The will of God must be an all-consuming evidence in our lives. A lot of jobs are seasonal jobs, not ours. We are to persevere in his field. It always frustrates me when I see someone, quit the labor that God had designed them to do, a labor that gave them so much fulfillment and relationship. Be diligent in the will of God.

B. A Dischargeable Assignment - Boaz said Keep fast! vs 23 said she "kept fast." You see there was an end to the harvest. The work was completed. We are to work day by day in his field until either our work is done or His work is done. Many times we finish a work to only be moved to another field. Other times our labors are complete when we lay our labors down on the other side, 1 Tim 4:7

Gal 6:9. 1 Cor 15:58. When the Lord calls for us or comes for us, let him find us.

IV. Close - Are you confused about the will of God? Start w/ a field you know he wants you in. Prescribe. Then the personal. Don't hesitate at the will

Stay at God's will

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
- 2) Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
- 3) ...let him find us laboring in the field of His will!